

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing dessert products, comprising:
 - a base;
 - an electric motor mounted to said base;
 - a container removably mounted to said base, said container having an outer surface and an inner surface;
 - a cutting member having an opening and a cutting edge adjoining said opening;
 - a feed vessel for receiving food products, said cutting member being positioned to engage food products introduced into said feed vessel, said container being positioned to receive food products from said feed vessel after they engage said cutting member and pass through said opening; and
 - a mixing blade in said container for blending the food products engaged by the cutting member and including an edge portion substantially adjoining said inner surface of said container, said electric motor being coupled to said mixing blade.
2. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein said container includes an interior surface shaped to direct products within said container towards said cutting member.
3. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein said electric motor is a low speed, high torque motor.

4. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 1 including means for urging products in said feed vessel towards said cutting member.

5. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 1 including a drive member operatively associated with said electric motor for causing relative movement between food products and said cutting member.

6. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 5 wherein said cutting member is engaged to said drive member and rotatable therewith.

7. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein said mixing blade is coupled to said electric motor by a gear assembly such that said mixing blade can be rotated at a speed between about 1000-1400 rpm.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein said cutting member is disposed in said container with said mixing blade ~~opening is an elongate slot.~~

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing dessert products, comprising:

a feed vessel for receiving food products;

a container positioned beneath said feed vessel;

means for slicing food products from said feed vessel and dropping them into said container;

a mixing blade disposed in said container for blending the food products therein; and

~~a low speed, high torque~~ an electric motor coupled to said mixing blade.

10. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 9 wherein said means for slicing food products and dropping them into said container comprise a cutting member having a cutting edge and an opening adjoining said cutting edge.

11. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 10 wherein said opening is an elongate slot.

12. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein said mixing blade extends substantially to an inner surface of said container.

13. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 12 wherein said motor is operatively coupled to said means for slicing and dropping.

14. (Original) An apparatus as described in claim 9 including a base, said container being removably mounted to said base, said motor being within said base, and a

gearing assembly coupled between said motor and said mixing blade for limiting the speed of said mixing blade to about 1400 rpm or less.

15- 22 (Cancelled).

23. (New) An apparatus for producing dessert products, comprising:
- a base;
 - an electric motor mounted to said base;
 - a container removably mounted to said base, said container having an outer surface and an inner surface;
 - a cutting member disposed in said container and operatively connected to said motor, said cutting member having an opening and a cutting edge adjoining said opening;
 - a feed vessel for receiving food products, said cutting member being positioned to engage food products introduced into said feed vessel, said container being positioned to receive food products from said feed vessel after they engage said cutting member and pass through said opening; and
 - a mixing blade disposed in said container with said cutting member, said mixing blade blending the food products passing through said cutting member opening, said electric motor being coupled to said mixing blade, said mixing blade including at least one vane extending in a radial direction from a central hub, said at least one vane being configured for non-cutting engagement with the food products.

24. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 23, wherein said mixing blade is rotatable about an axis and said at least one vane includes a food engaging surface extending in an axial direction.

25. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 23, wherein said food engaging surface is generally planar.

26. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 24, wherein said food engaging surface has at least one opening therein.

27. (New) An apparatus for producing dessert products, comprising:
a feed vessel for receiving food products;
a container positioned beneath said feed vessel;
a cutting blade disposed adjacent said feed vessel for cutting food products from said feed vessel and dropping them into said container; and
a mixing blade disposed in said container and having a first blunt food engaging surface for blending the food products processed by said cutting blade.

28. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 27, wherein said mixing blade has a second blunt food engaging surface, and said first and second food engaging surfaces radially extend from a central hub.

29. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 27, wherein said first food engaging surface has at least one opening therein extending in a direction of mixing blade rotation.

30. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 27, wherein said cutting blade has an opening and a cutting edge adjacent said opening.

31. (New) An apparatus as described in Claim 27, wherein said mixing blade is disposed below said cutting blade.